



National Multiple Sclerosis Society
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Human Services Committee Public Hearing
February 20, 2014

Testimony in Support of the HB No. 5052
An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations for Human Services Programs
Additional Slots for the CT Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities

Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie, Senator Coleman, Representative Stallworth, Senator Markley, Representative Wood and members of the Human Services Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Anita Towhill and I am a volunteer for the National MS Society, Connecticut Chapter. I am a retired Registered Nurse and I live with multiple sclerosis.

We want to thank Governor Malloy, the Legislature and the Connecticut Department of Social Services for their long standing support of the Connecticut Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities (CHCPAD).

We are asking that the Human Services Committee pass the Governor's Bill, HB No. 5052 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS. This legislation includes 50 additional slots for the Connecticut Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities.

The Connecticut Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities started in 2007, it is unique because it is the only comprehensive home care program available to adults between the ages of 19 and 64 who have degenerative neurological conditions and are ineligible for other programs. Services include: care management, adult daycare, home health care, homemakers and home delivered meals.

CHCPAD is modeled after the state-funded Category 2 of the CT Home Care Program for Elders. The program participants must require assistance with 3 critical needs and need case management services. These are people who are at high risk of nursing home placement.

CHCPAD serves 50 individuals from throughout the state including those with multiple sclerosis, ALS, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's diseases. There are over 100

people on the waiting list. The approximate wait time from application to enrollment is more than 3 years.

The CT Department of Social Services and Governor Malloy are supporting the appropriation of adding 50 additional slots to the program. The Department has been a champion of the program and we express our appreciation to Program Manager, Kathy Bruni, DSS leadership and the entire department.

The average yearly cost of home care for individuals on the program is \$16,000 compared to a cost of \$72,000 per year if the individual were to be on Medicaid and living in a nursing home. SAVINGS: \$56,000 per person per year for a total of over \$2.8 million annually.

Benefits to Families and the Community

- Keeps younger adults in their homes and out of nursing homes.
Approximately 13% of Connecticut nursing home residents are younger than age 65.
- Creates jobs in the health and home care service fields.
- Increases income tax revenue through new jobs.
- Allows family caregivers to maintain their employment, pay taxes and stay afloat financially.
- Keeps families together.

We are urging the Human Services Committee to pass Governor's H.B. No. 5052

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS. This legislation includes 50 additional slots for the Connecticut Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities.

Thank you.